19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the chemokine is a human or a mouse chemokine.

20. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the chemokine is lymphotactin, RNATES, MIP-1 alpha, MCP-1, MCP-4, IL-8, murine KC, murine MIP2, human GCP2, human IP10, or fractalkine.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the chemokine is RANTES, MIP-1, IL-8, or Exodus-2.

22. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the cell is *in vitro*.

23. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the cell is *in vivo*.

24. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the M3 protein is labeled.

25. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the chemokine is labeled.

26. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the receptor for the chemokine is labeled.

27. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the cell is a skin cell.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are cancelled herein, without prejudice to renewal. New claims 17-27 are added herein.

Support for new claims 17 can be found throughout the specification, specifically on page 2, lines 25 to page 3, lines 12, page 10, line 22-23, on page 11, lines 17-22, and on page 11, line 24-26. Support for new claims 18 and 19 can be found in the specification on page 10, line 3-5. Support for new claim 20 can be found in the specification on page 2, line 19-24. Support for new claim 21 can be found in the specification on page 2, line 19-24, and on page 10, lines 1-20. Support for new claim 22 can be found in the specification on page 2, lines 26-27, and on page 11, line 4-9. Support for new claim 23 can be found in the specification on page 2, lines 26-27, and on page 5, line 14. Support for new claims 24-26 can be found in the specification on page 2, line 29 to page 3, line 2. Support for new claim 27 can be found in the specification on page 4, line 1.

Applicants thank Examiner Spiegler for the helpful telephone conference of February 22, 2001.

No new matter is added. Examination of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

The response to the restriction requirement was discussed with Examiner Speigler in a telephone conference on February 22, 2001. At that time Applicants indicated that all the pending claims would be canceled, and the present claims submitted. Examiner Speigler noted that the newly added claims would

contain subject matter related to Group V, directed to contacting a chemokine with an M3 protein. It was discussed that cancellation of the pending claims and the submission of new claims directed to a method of inhibiting binding of a chemokine to a cell surface receptor using M3, was permissible if the claims were supported in the specification, and the claims were directed to only one invention.

Support provided in the specification for the newly added claims is noted above in the "Remarks" section. In addition, the claims are directed to a single inventive concept. However, if the Examiner has any questions regarding the newly added claims, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number provided below.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor issues remain to be addressed, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Version of Amended Claims
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121(b)-(c)

Please cancel claims 1-16.

Please add the following new claims:

--17. (New) A method of blocking binding of a chemokine to a receptor for the chemokine on the surface of a cell, comprising

contacting the cell with a M3 protein, or a homologue thereof, thereby blocking the binding of the chemokine to the receptor.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the chemokine is a CXC, CC, C, or a CX3C chemokine.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the chemokine is a human or a mouse chemokine.

20. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the chemokine is lymphotactin, RNATES, MIP-1 alpha, MCP-1, MCP-4, IL-8, murine KC, murine MIP2, human GCP2, human IP10, or fractalkine.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the chemokine is RANTES, MIP-1, IL-8, or Exodus-2.

22. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the cell is *in vitro*.

23. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the cell is *in vivo*.

24. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the M3 protein is labeled.

25. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the chemokine is labeled.

26. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the receptor for the chemokine is labeled.

27. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the cell is a skin cell.--